



State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Administrative Policies and Procedures: 27.40-DOE

Subject: Youth Belief of Physical Danger

supersedes: DYD 9.22

Approved by:

Effective date: 07/01/1990

Authority:

TCA 37-5-106

ACA Standard:

2-9189

- I. APPLICATION: To all employees and youths at Youth Development Centers.
- II. POLICY: All staff members shall take necessary precautions immediately to protect any youth who believes that he/she is in danger of physical attack from another youth(s).
- III. PROCEDURES:
 - A. If a youth believes that a physical attack is imminent, he/she may request assistance from any staff member. If the staff member from whom assistance has been requested is unable to adequately investigate and/or resolve the situation, he/she shall refer the matter and the youth to the shift supervisor. In all cases, the matter shall be investigated immediately.
 - B. Unless the youth's claim is found to be clearly without merit, corrective/preventive measures shall be taken immediately. Such corrective/preventive measures shall be increased, modified or discontinued as the threat might dictate. If the investigation shows there is clearly no factual basis for the youth's claim, the investigating staff member shall so inform the youth.
 - C. In determining whether the youth's fear of danger is reasonable, the following factors may be considered; however, they shall in no way invalidate the youth's request:
 1. Vulnerability of the youth (size, assertiveness, age)
 2. The youth's history (previous problems and how resolved, review of prior incidents, if any)

3. Corroboration of information from staff and/or other youths
 4. Specificity of information (names of aggressors), and any information which will support the charge.
- D. The most appropriate corrective measures are those interventions which provide protection while being least disruptive to the youth's normal program. Staff may elect to:
1. Discuss the problem with the youths involved to achieve a workable solution;
 2. Increase visual supervision and/or the physical closeness of the staff member to the youth;
 3. Place the threatened youth in a single occupancy room;
 4. Move the threatened youth or the youth(s) creating the problem to a different housing unit;
 5. At the youth's request, place the threatened youth in confinement for his/her am protection;
 6. Refer to program staffing team for review of program placement.
- E. Special actions taken for youth protection shall continue as long as the threatening situation exists.
- F. All requests for protection and the action or non-action shall be documented in the post and/or shift log. Findings of the investigation will be included as justification for the action taken by staff. The documentation will also be forwarded to the security office where it will be kept in a log and reviewed weekly by the Superintendent.

IV. FORMS: None

**(Note: This Policy Cannot Be Revised Without Prior Permission
of Chancery Court, Davidson County, Nashville, Tennessee.)**